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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 CAROLYN EVETTE WADE,
11 Plaintiff,
12 v.
13 CAROLYN W. COLVIN,
14 Commissioner of Social Security,
15 Defendant.

Civil No. 14cv2228-LAB (DHB)
**ORDER GRANTING MOTION
TO BE RELIEVED AS COUNSEL
OF RECORD**
[ECF No. 17]

16 On April 2, 2015, attorney Lawrence D. Rohlfing filed a Motion to be Relieved as
17 Counsel of Record. (ECF No. 17.) Mr. Rohlfing is currently counsel of record for
18 Plaintiff Carolyn Evette Wade. All parties to the case have been notified of the motion
19 and there have been no objections filed. For the reasons set forth below, the motion to
20 be relieved is **GRANTED**.

21 **I. DISCUSSION**

22 Mr. Rohlfing seeks to withdraw because Plaintiff has consistently failed to
23 communicate with him since February 26, 2015. (ECF No. 17-1 at 4, ¶ 9.) Plaintiff's
24 failure to communicate with her counsel is sufficient to allow Mr. Rohlfing withdrawal
25 under California Rule of Professional Conduct 3-700(C)(1)(d), which allows withdrawal
26 where the client "renders it unreasonably difficult for [counsel] to carry out the
27 employment effectively." Cal. R. Prof. Conduct 3-700(C)(1)(d).

28 However, counsel may not withdraw until reasonable steps are taken "to avoid
reasonably foreseeable prejudice to the rights of the client, including giving due notice

1 to the client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, complying with rule 3-
2 700(D), and complying with applicable laws and rules.” Cal. R. Prof. Conduct 3-700(A).

3 Here, Mr. Rohlfing has complied with Rule 3-700(A). On February 26, 2015, he
4 corresponded with Plaintiff after he received the administrative record. (ECF NO. 17-1
5 at 4, ¶ 2.) Plaintiff did not respond. Mr. Rohlfing corresponded with Plaintiff concerning
6 her lack of response on March 24, 2015. (*Id.* at ¶ 3.) The address Mr. Rohlfing used for
7 the correspondence was 4073 Oakcrest Dr., Apt. 3, San Diego, California, 92015. (*Id.*
8 at ¶ 8.) On March 24, 2015, Mr. Rohlfing’s office also attempted to contact Plaintiff by
9 telephone at (619) 674-6623. An unidentified person answered the call, and confirmed
10 that Plaintiff used the number to receive phone calls, and that she received mail at the
11 address on Oakcrest Drive. (*Id.* at ¶ 4.) As of the filing of the instant motion, Mr.
12 Rohlfing has not heard from Plaintiff.

13 II. CONCLUSION AND ORDER

14 Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that Mr. Rohlfing has made sufficiently
15 diligent efforts to locate and communicate with his client. However, Plaintiff has been
16 non-responsive. Accordingly, the Court **GRANTS** Mr. Rohlfing’s motion to withdraw,
17 and **ORDERS** as follows:

- 18 1. Mr. Rohlfing shall send by registered mail a copy of this order to Plaintiff
19 at the 4073 Oakcrest Drive address noted above, and to any other known
20 address for Plaintiff. Mr. Rohlfing shall file a declaration stating that he has
21 done so on or before **April 15, 2015**.
- 22 2. Failure to comply with the above condition shall result in the denial of Mr.
23 Rohlfing’s motion to withdraw.
- 24 3. Plaintiff has **45 days** from the date of this order to obtain new counsel or be
25 prepared to proceed *pro se*.
- 26 4. The briefing schedule is extended as follows:
27 a. Plaintiff shall file and serve her motion for summary judgment on or
28 before **June 26, 2015**.

- IT IS SO ORDERED.


DAVID H. BARTICK
United States Magistrate Judge